



# the Cornerstone

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE FOUNDATION MAGAZINE ISSUE 26 | SPRING 2019/SUMMER 2020

## Benefit Dinner a cause for special celebration

The Foundation's Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction was a cause for special celebration because it aligned with the 40th anniversary of the College's move to Kilbirnie.

At the dinner, held on August 24, we were blessed to have guest speaker former All Black Sir Bryan Williams join us for the evening.

He spoke humbly and with a great sense of humour, and his tales were both eye-opening and relatable. He provided lots of food for thought but my favourites were: "be brief, be sincere, be seated" and "some refs are more neutral than others". I was also inspired by his significant underlying message, which focused on persistence and goal setting.

The student-led entertainment this year was first class. The evening opened with a stirring kapa haka performance by Nga Maioha o te Rangikauia, a group which combines students from SPC with St Mary's and St Catherine's Colleges.

The evening's objective was to raise funds to enable the Foundation to continue to assist the College and we are pleased to advise that we raised \$36,000.

We could not have achieved this without the support of everyone involved and would like to thank the generosity of our guests, suppliers, and sponsors – we are sincerely grateful for all the community does to assist.

Louise McKenzie  
Foundation Development Manager



Award-winning St Pat's choir Con Anima was a highlight of the Benefit Dinner.



Attendees included past parents MP Andrew Little and wife Leigh Fitzgerald and SPC Old Boys' Association Immediate Past President George Collins.



Old Boys' Association President Brad Hudson and St Pat's Foundation Board Trustee Tom Mahony with guest speaker and All Blacks great Sir Bryan Williams.



College Rector Neal Swindells addresses guests.



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WILLIS BOND & Co



## The O'Shea Shield is ours again

In 2019 our team was victorious at the O'Shea Shield public speaking competition for the 17 secondary Catholic Colleges in the Wellington and Palmerston North Dioceses. The competition was hosted by St Peter's College and Hato Paora and held in Palmerston North.

We also won the Cardinal McKeefry Cup (Oratory Section A), Silverstream Cup (Impromptu Speaking Section B) and Hibernian Cup (Religious Questions Section A).

We last held the trophy in 2013 when we were joint winners with nearby St Catherine's College.

The contest is dedicated to the memory of Wellington Archbishop Thomas O'Shea who was a foundation pupil of our College when it opened in 1885.



*Our victorious O'Shea Shield team with coaches and Rector Neal Swindells.  
Photo: Kieran Baird, St Peter's College.*

## 2010 Dux wins Fulbright Scholarship

Our 2010 Dux, Oliver Armstrong-Scott, has graduated from medical school and won a Fulbright 2019 Science and Innovation Graduate Scholarship to study in the USA. He credits St Pat's for giving him both an excellent education and teaching the values so essential in medicine. Oliver studied medicine at Otago University from 2011 to 2016, the last three years being clinical placement in University of Otago, Wellington.

### **What part did St Pat's play in your decision to pursue a medical career?**

St Pat's was an awesome College that really gave me a great foundation to become a doctor. It was both an excellent education but also taught a great set of values of integrity, humility and respect which are essential in medicine. The staff and the students are what made the College for me, and teachers such as Mr Porima, Mrs Hibbard and Br Matt and the rest of my student cohort were all really important in making me who I am today. I have always been interested in the sciences and it was St Pat's that initially interested me in biology and medicine in particular, prompting me to pursue a medical career through Otago University.

### **How well did your college studies prepare you?**

St Pat's provided an excellent knowledge base and foundation for university and the health science first year. Again, it isn't just the knowledge that makes St Pat's stand out, it is also how it prepares you for reality with a good sense of character and a set of morals that I fall back on most days in the hospital.

### **What have you been doing since graduating in 2016?**

I have been working as a junior doctor in the Auckland region at Auckland City and Middlemore Hospitals. I've been working in a variety of specialities including emergency medicine, neurology, orthopaedics and haematology. I've also been involved in some neurology research in a new technique of treating certain headaches and I was involved in starting a junior doctor teaching programme at Middlemore Hospital which I presented at the Australia New Zealand Prevocational Medical Education Forum in Melbourne last year.

### **How did winning the Fulbright Scholarship come about?**

I heard about the Fulbright programme through one of my friends and the idea of an education and cultural exchange sounded like

a great idea that would fit well with where I wanted my career to head. I wanted to study further public health and what better place than some of the world's best universities in the USA. The programme was set up after WWII to "promote mutual understanding between cultures," and it has continued annually since and exists in over 150 countries. The Fulbright NZ science and innovation grant is for a year-long Masters programme and the award is for \$US40,000. If anyone has any interest at all in a cultural exchange to the USA, I would really recommend applying.



*Oliver Armstrong-Scott*

### **Why a Masters of Public Health specialising in Global Health at Yale University?**

I really enjoy clinical medicine, but after seeing lots of patients with repeated preventable presentations, or preventable devastating conditions like rheumatic fever, I thought I would like to study some more public health. Hopefully with an MPH I will be able to add population health into my career, focusing on preventing disease instead of being the "ambulance at the bottom of the cliff".

### **What do you hope to do after you complete it?**

After the MPH I will finish my medical speciality training back in New Zealand, possibly in the field of infectious diseases which I have a particular interest in. I will then hopefully combine public health and infectious disease to work at a level where I am able to contribute to preventing disease on a population level. I would love to get involved with the World Health Organisation and Doctors Without Borders to look at major global health problems like TB, HIV and malaria.

# Class reunion marks 40 years at Kilbirnie

By Old Boy John Campbell

So, a happy band of about 90 Old Boys and former staff turned up on Friday, September 20, to commemorate the closing of the old Cambridge Terrace College site, the walk over and the grand opening of the new St Patrick's College.

We made the shift of College sites around the time the Beehive was opening, Rob Muldoon was Prime Minister and Bill Rowling was leading the Opposition. We were having carless days, Street Talk won album of the year, Th' Dudes won top band of the year and Rob Guest and Sharon O'Neill were on top of the solo artist awards.

Heady times and heady stuff, we knew what long hair was all about, well as long as the school rules would allow. It was a time when no-one would have imagined there would ever be a time when the Rector of St Patrick's College wasn't a Marist priest. It was a time when a Hillman Avenger or Vauxhall Viva was a perfectly legitimate car and a Holden or Falcon was a thing to behold.

As a third former at that time I was well back in the long tail of marchers. To be in a new College when so many of us turds had just got used to getting to the old College, let alone our way around it was heady stuff indeed.

The new College seemed huge and so organised and I'm sure our class wasn't alone that immediately fell in love with our new form class. An assembly was now in the hall instead of the old gymnasium and we sat on form chairs, that had sponge and vinyl! Crazy stuff. Assemblies could go on for as long as Father Weir wanted, as far as I was concerned. I was sitting comfortably and just happy to be there. When I think back, the vinyl on those hall form chairs was brown – it was the 70s after all.

Our reunion afternoon went well, we had a warm welcome from Rector Neal Swindells and Head Prefect Will Georgeson. We heard about some of the current College successes and some of the challenges facing Marist education now. The summary was the school is in great heart and it was nice to hear this. It felt good to be there. It still means something to be a St Pat's boy and we were guided around the school by some chatty lads who were keen to advise about the different parts of the school, what they enjoy about it and what it means to them today.

Our guide was also keen to hear about some of the aspects that we remembered all too well. The walk past the sports photos from our time created plenty of discussion and reminiscing of our (in the words of Bruce Springsteen) Glory Days.

It was also great to see former staff Mr Faisandier and Fathers Wysocki, Twiss and O'Hagan.

Nga mihi.

• *John Campbell (1979-1983) is also the current Board of Trustees Chairperson and a Trustee on the St Pat's Foundation Board.*

Our 2020 Class Years Reunion will be for **1980-84** third formers. 30 October, 2020, save the date and register by emailing: [development@stpats.school.nz](mailto:development@stpats.school.nz)



## Remembering Br Joe Lamb

Old Boy and viticulturist Br Joseph Lamb SM is remembered for his Christian faith, generosity, dependability and the important role he played in development of the Mission Estate's vineyards in the Hawke's Bay. He died in the Hawke's Bay on 15 June 2019 a few days short of his 85th birthday.

Born John Thomas Lamb, he and twin brother David began at St Pat's in 1949. The call of God was strong in John's heart. As soon as John finished college in 1952 he entered the Society of Mary and took the name Br Joseph. He was professed at Highden in August 1954 and sent to the Mission Seminary at Greenmeadows where he worked in the vineyard. In 1958 he became vineyard manager. During his years there he expanded the area in grapes from 12 acres to 100 acres by 1979.

He received a bursary from the French Government to study viticulture in France

in 1965. The course took him around the whole of France and he returned with a Diploma in Viticulture, specialising in pruning and vine diseases.

In 1979 Br Joseph returned to Highden to work, looking after 1000 head of cattle. In 1989 he moved back to the Mission Seminary to look after the grounds. In 1999 he moved to St Mary's Parish in Otaki where he served the parish for eight years. He was in retirement in the Hawke's Bay since 2007.

At Brother Joseph's funeral, fellow Marist Brother and St Pat's staff member Matt Morris, a former assistant winemaker at The Mission, gave the eulogy.

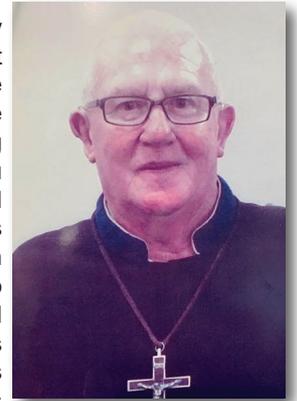
"When I first went to Greenmeadows and was appointed to work in the cellars one of my memories of meeting Joe was this big man in enormous work-boots, khaki trousers and a white singlet with a cluster of religious medals pinned to it. He was a man of great faith," Br Matt said.

"Joe was also very generous. If you asked something of him, he would oblige. That

wasn't to say he wouldn't put you through the hoops before accommodating you, but you knew he would deliver. "Joe was self-effacing in his approach to life. He accepted that changes wrought in his life were God's will for him and consequently, he

was obedient to the requests the Society of Mary asked of him. This can't always have been easy for one who put great store in a regular life and liked routines and predictability."

Despite any setbacks he encountered in life and especially in these last years of failing health, Br Joseph maintained a cheerful acceptance and optimism, Br Matt said.



Br Joe Lamb

## Educational achievements of Fr John O'Neill acknowledged

The contribution of former staff member Fr John (PJ) O'Neill SM to St Pat's, integration and mathematics was acknowledged at his funeral in Wellington in September.

Fr John died at Wellington Hospital on August 28, aged 92. His funeral was held at St Mary of the Angels with Society of Mary Provincial Fr David Kennerley presiding. St Pat's choir Con Anima sang May God Bless You at the service.

Born in Fairlie, South Canterbury, the son of Irish parents, a Dominican nun at his school predicted Fr John would become both a mathematician and a priest. Fifty years later they jointly presented a conference on the New Maths programme.

Fr John made a significant contribution to education in New Zealand not just in Catholic Schools, but nationally.

He was a teacher at St Pat's from 1953 until 1981. In 1960 he took a break from teaching to attend Cambridge University, returning to St Pat's at the end of 1962. From 1964 until 1980 he was involved with the Education

Department in Mathematics Curriculum Development. He was instrumental in introducing the "New Maths" into the curriculum of New Zealand secondary schools.

During that same time, he was one of a group of authors who published a series of textbooks called *The Shape of Mathematics*. For a long time, almost every secondary school in New Zealand used these texts.

Fr John also played a significant role in the process of integrating Catholic schools into the State education system. From 1973 until 1975 he was a member of the Integration Working Party. From 1987 until 1994 he was the executive director of the New Zealand Education Office.

He then served as the Vicar for Education in the Archdiocese of Wellington until 2001. In 1990 he received a medal for services to education, and later in the year the QSO. After 1995 he lived in retirement in Thorndon.

Speaking at the funeral former St Pat's teacher Fr Des Darby SM said Fr John was a person who always thought of others and left them feeling encouraged. He lived a simple and humble life, a life given to teaching young people. Yet at the same time he had a "tremendous impact" on the New Zealand political and educational scene, including being part of the team that negotiated the



Fr O'Neill on the tower of the old St Pat's in Cambridge Terrace.

Integration Act under which Catholic schools now operate.

Fr John taught at the three main Catholic schools but it was St Pat's that he loved most, spending 25 years on staff, Fr Des said. Fr Jeff Drane SM said Fr John's preaching was always fresh and helpful for people's lives.

He was a "light switched on in our darkness".

Fr John had declined an invitation to attend September's St Pat's 1975-80 class years reunion but two weeks before his death wrote 1000 words on his memories of the practical side of the move from Cambridge Terrace to Evans Bay in 1979.

## Reunion for rugby traditional

Taupo will be the venue for a reunion next March celebrating the sporting history of two traditional rivals - St Pat's Town and Wellington College cricket and rugby teams. The reunion will be for members of the 1963 First XV's and 1960-1963 First XI's.

The '63 game was played in rain at Wellington College with a rare victory (in those days) to Town. The game caused media interest as present was Dr Danie Craven, chairman of the IRB.

Two good mates who played against each other that day, Ross Crotty (WC) and Paul Cudby (SPC), are organising the reunion to be held on March 20-22 at the Lake Taupo Yacht Club. To attend contact Paul email: soozie@xtra.co.nz ph 027 441 2880.

## More book launches

Old Boy Peter Burke has held two further launches of his book *True to Ireland*, this time in the Emerald Isle in September. The first was a joint launch at Trinity College, Dublin, with Rory Sweetman who has written about Anzacs who defended Trinity College during the 1916 Easter Rising. The second was at Galway in the presence of Ciaran Cannon, Minister of State and Minister for the Irish Diaspora, Kyne Sean, Chief Whip for the Irish Government, New Zealand's Ambassador to Ireland, Brad Burgess, and Ireland's Ambassador to New Zealand, Peter Ryan. Copies of the book for sale in Ireland have been printed there.

## Fr John Mori SM remembered

Respected Old Boy Marist priest Fr John Mori died in the Hawke's Bay on 24 July 2019 after a brief illness.

John was born in Napier in 1943, the son of Francis and Ella Mori. After the family moved to Wellington, John was educated at the Petone Convent School and St Pat's (1956-1960). At school he was a notable track athlete and was also an avid participant in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

After he finished college he returned to Napier to enter seminary at Mount St Mary's – now The Mission.

He made his first profession in the Society of Mary in January 1963 at the Highden

Novitiate and in 1967 was ordained a priest by Cardinal McKeefry.

Fr John's ministry extended over 50 years, first in education for 35 years. After studying for a Bachelor of Commerce at Canterbury University he taught at St Bede's in Christchurch, St John's in Hastings, St Patrick's Silverstream and Roncalli College in Timaru. His departure from Roncalli marked the end of 65 years of Marist teaching there.

Fr John was appointed to pastoral ministry in Whangarei and then Napier and most recently as chaplain to St Joseph's Maori Girls College.

Fr John was a man of prayer, preaching, serving and hospitality. Michael Wooller SM told mourners at his funeral "As well as his professional degree, John brought other qualifications and talents to all his ministries.

He was a man of extraordinary intellectual talent, a most amazing memory, an interest and an extraordinary breadth of knowledge with an understanding of a myriad of fields. He was a talented coach of rugby and athletics, always keen to bring the best out of people, and while he was good at training 'champions', he also had a love of helping less gifted athletes get the best out of themselves".



Fr John Mori SM

## Tributes flowed for Shortland Street star

Tributes flowed in from around the world for former Shortland Street star and St Pat's Old Boy Pua Magasiva who died suddenly while visiting Wellington in May. The 38-year-old was best known for his role as Shortland Street nurse Vinnie Kruse.

St Pat's staff member Ainslie Sauvao taught Pua in Year 11 Science. "He was always a vibrant and fun-loving student who had an endearingly cheeky streak about him. He was keen to be involved in so many extra-curricular activities which included Multicultural Club, Con Anima, athletics, dragon-boating and rugby.

"Pua was in his element any time he was asked to perform for drama, Poly Club or in front of his boys when doing his Bruce Lee take-offs. He was extremely proud of his College and was often seen wearing his St Pat's athletics tee-shirt during filming and interviews on Tv programmes such as Fresh and documentaries on the lives of actors.

"His parents' and brothers' influence and spiritual support were evident in his achievements and successes throughout college life but he always had a special place in his heart for his 'boys' - the long-life friends/brothers he made whilst at St Pat's. Rest in Love Pua. Ia manuia lou malaga. Alofa atu."

Born in Apia, Samoa, Pua moved to New Zealand aged just 2, was raised in Wellington and attended St Patrick's College along with brothers Tanu, Robbie, Stevan and Miki.

In 1998 he and Tanu were in the College 1st XV, captained by future All Black Jerry Collins and managed by staff member Peter Wadsworth.

After leaving school, Pua played rugby for the Marist St Pat's Rugby Club in Hataitai.

Pua's funeral was held at St Mary of the Angels.



Pua Magasiva

## In Memoriam

We remember in our prayers  
Old Boys and staff who have  
passed away:

### Former Staff

Fr John (PJ) O'Neill SM 1953-1981

### Old Boys

BANAS, Jan (Janek) 1949-1952  
BURAK, Tadeusz 1948-1949  
CARROLL, Paul Howard 1983-1987  
COUGHLIN, Paul John 1977-1981  
CUDBY, Cedric Bernard 1941-1943  
DALLOW, John Vernon 1945-1946  
DESMOND, Philip Gavin 1947-1952  
EILERS, Peter 1944-1948  
GREENING, Daniel Rangī John 2003-2006  
GUNSON, Brian Ernest 1955-1958  
HEALY, Francis John (Frank) 1942-1945  
HILL, Louis 1955-1956  
HOARE, John Andrew Patrick 1950-1951  
JACOBSEN, Desmond Paul 1976-1978



JAMES, Bryan Lawrence 1954-1955  
JOHNS, Stephen William 1951-1955  
JOINES, Raymond George 1952-1954  
KASPRZYK, Bronislaw 1949-1950  
LAMB, John Thomas (Br Joseph Lamb SM) 1949-1952  
LEACH, James Patrick 1954-1959  
LEARY, Bernard Harold 1945-1948  
MAGASIVA Puaivanu (Pua) 1994-1998  
MITRI, Richard 1956-1958  
MONTGOMERY, Kevin Patrick Reginald 1953-1957  
MORI, Fr John Lopdell SM 1956-1960  
MORRIS, Simon Louis 1979-1983  
PERRY, Edward Graham (Graham) 1944-1945  
PORTER, Norm 1948-1952  
QUINN, Michael Edward 1969-1972  
SCAMBARY, Rex 1943-1946  
SHEPHERD, Derek Michael 1938-1941  
SOUTHALL, Anthony Thomson (Tony, Ant) 1969-1973  
SPAULDING, Noel Francis Matthew 1947-1948  
SPIERS, David Phillip 1958-1960  
THOMSON, Graeme Alexander 1958-1960  
TURNER, Kevin William Francis 1963-1965  
TREMBATH, Barry Francis 1950  
WELSH, Michael Leslie Phillip 1972-1974

## '94 reunion success will lead to more

The success of a 25-year reunion in June of the Class of '94 has led to plans for one every five years.

Old Boys travelled from around New Zealand and Sydney, Melbourne and Samoa to attend.

The weekend of June 14-15 was organised by Karl Gill-Michaels and Eugene Young. It began with a tour of the College with Rector Neal Swindells and long-time staff member Peter Wadsworth. Old Boys caught up with some teachers from their schools days still on staff - Kevin McGrath, Brother Matt Morris, Wayne Mills and Ainslie Sauvao.

The Poly Club put on a stunning performance for the visitors and there was the opportunity to watch SPC basketball and rugby.

Old Boys attended the First XV jersey presentation/team naming ceremony for the following day's game (won by SPC) against Rongotai College. Former First XV players Andrew Fitisemanu and Karl Burke gave words of encouragement and support and shared stories of what the College and playing for the First XV meant to them.



*Former students visit their old gym.*

About 30 Old Boys attended the Friday events, which finished with drinks and nibbles, and around 40 went to the Saturday rugby which was followed by another social event.

Special mention goes to Nick O'Reilly who saw photos from the Friday and booked a last-minute flight from Sydney to be part of the Saturday event.

Organisers say Old Boys agreed that 25 years was far too long and that reunions should become five-yearly events.

More reunion photos are at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1140578662739157/>

## Class of '99 reunite

The Class of 1999 reunited after 20 years on Friday, September 27.

Kicking off with an afternoon tour of the College, 25 former students enjoyed reconnecting with Mr Wayne Mills and Mr Peter Wadsworth who, among other staff, taught and coached many of these young men in the late 1990s.

The celebration continued that evening with a private function, attended by 40 Old Boys, at The Grand's Garden Bar on Courtenay Place. Every attendee was given a surprise gift - a commemorative beer glass inscribed with the "Glass of '99", featuring a unique design infusing SPC and 99, designed by Thomas Montague. Tom was part of the organising committee, which met throughout the year, including Conrad Hawkins (Head Boy), Rod Baxter, Andrew Treder and Fa'ali'i Alaimoana. There were also tee-shirts and hoodies for sale.

The reunion was a highlight for all involved, and there is a great desire to hold repeat events, perhaps next at the 25th anniversary. We were incredibly grateful for the generosity of Mr Mills and Mr Wadsworth for making the time to take us back around our old stomping ground.

The most evident legacy of our time together is the overwhelming sense of brotherhood and strong enduring connections.

*Sectare Fidem!*

Class of '99 Reunion Committee



*Reunion participants with long-serving staff members Wayne Mills (second from left) and Peter Wadsworth (front, right).*

## Staff retiring

Our Rector for the past six years, Neal Swindells, will retire at the end of this year. Also retiring are counsellor Peter Wadsworth and College secretary Aldona Yardley.

Peter, our longest serving staff member, joined the College in 1981 as a design and technology teacher. Aldona joined the staff in 1995.

All three staff are looking forward to spending more time with their grandchildren.